



Memo

To: Park Board
From: Park and Recreation Staff
Date: February 9, 2015
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for January and early February for your review.

1. Director Mark Jones reported the following highlights:
 - a. He took part in the City Capital Project Review Committee and now staff is pulling together quotes for upcoming 2015 projects.
 - b. Staff did a great job of pulling together Annual Report information. Parks & Recreation Annual Report has been given to Mayor's office for final inserts.
 - c. Staff is continuing to pull Fun Guide information together. Fun Guide should be distributed at the end of March.
 - d. A Hamilton Center follow-up meeting was held last week. The Grand Re-Opening is planned for May 7.
 - e. On February 3rd the City was host to Scouts in Government Day. Parks & Recreation participated with 3 young men visiting the department during the morning.
 - f. He is working with staff to outline individual goals and Department goals for 2015.
 - g. He is working with staff and City Attorney on Golf Course RFP.
 - h. He continues to work on the Mill Race Amphitheater project.
 - i. He is working on restructuring of the Director of Sports Programs & Athletic Facilities position.
 - j. He is working with staff, Park Board and Mayor Brown on the open Commons position. Interviews have started.
 - k. The Program Planning Committee continues to meet.
 - l. April and I have been sharing the Parks and Recreation "Story" with community organizations. We made a presentation to Kiwanis last month.
 - m. He is continuing to work with staff looking at overall Parks and Recreation operations/processes.
2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastics Center:

 - a. Spring Session 1 of classes will begin the week of Feb. 16th.
 - b. Open gym attendance for January was:
 - Pre-school (including MOPS & MOMS Club): 834
 - Weekly Family Open Gym (Th & Sat sessions): 335
 - Ages 7-up: 74
 - c. The next Friday Family Open Gym will be held on Feb. 27 from 6:30-8pm. The cost is \$3 per child and parent supervision/participation is required. 32 children + parents attended Friday Family Open Gym on Jan. 30.
 - d. As of February 2nd, all but one party time has been rented for February. Party calls are still coming in!
 - e. Two instructors and I took gymnastics equipment to First Christian Church pre-school on Jan. 28th. We set up an obstacle course, a beam station and a vault station for the children. 18 children participated.

- f. The next "Active Artist!" program will be held on Thursday, March 5th during the 12:30-1:30pm family open gym. Valentine's Day crafts/treats will be featured.
- g. St. Peter's JAM group had 15 children and parents at their special open gym session on Jan. 23.
- h. Columbus Christian Church pre-school will visit for 2 field trips on Monday, Feb. 16 and Tues, Feb. 17.
- i. Columbus Power Elite All-Star cheer group will participate in a cheer competition on Saturday, Feb. 14.
- j. Sandy Hook pre-school will visit on March 10th for a field trip.
- k. Participants from the Boys/Girls' Club FFY night will visit on Friday, Feb. 13 as part of the night's activities.

Recreation – Programs/Events:

- a. Approximately 250-300 attended the Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree event on Jan. 17. The next concert will be held on March 28.
- b. The 5th annual American Girl Doll Day will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8th. As of 2/3/15 only 3 spaces remained open for the event. This year's theme is Fiesta Fun!
- c. The next Community Cast-A-Ways adult garage sale will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9am-1pm at Donner Center. Cost is \$26 per booth space.
- d. The annual "Mad Scientists" family science night will be held on Friday, Feb. 20 from 6:30-8pm at Donner Center. Cost is \$1 per person and all children must be accompanied by an adult. A variety of hands-on science activities will be featured and snacks will be served.
- e. The next meeting of the steering committee for the After Prom Party will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10th at FFY at 6:30pm.
- f. I have been working on finalizing details for program information for the next Fun Guide. Some new programs will include "Art Attack Days" for both summer and fall break, a new Saturday evening event for Mill Race Park in June and a jump rope camp for fall break!
- g. I attended a meeting at City Hall with the amphitheater steering committee on Feb. 2.

3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

Programs/Tournaments:

- a. Youth Soccer registration ended with over 1,050 kids signed up to participate. (Up 150 participants from Spring 2014)
- b. Youth Baseball registration continues.
- c. Adult Winter Volleyball season continues with 27 teams competing.
- d. Adult Spring Volleyball registration has started.
- e. Prep work continues for the upcoming soccer and baseball seasons.
- f. Prep work is on-going for the upcoming concession and batting cage seasons.
- g. 2015 tournament dates and contracts are being finalized.
- h. We are working with the local Lacrosse group to schedule games for 2015 at one of our soccer fields.
- i. Staff is working on Fun Guide Program info for athletics.
- j. Summer camp information is being finalized.

Athletic Facilities:

- a. BCSC contract has been finalized and signed including the new high school fields constructed at Southside Elementary.
- b. Staff has been performing building maintenance items at all facilities which include both general repairs and improvements.
- c. Staff has prepared all storage facilities for the arrival of spring supplies already ordered and scheduled for delivery.
- d. Encumbered projects have been scheduled and are awaiting completion. Capital projects are being quoted.
- e. Staff begins layouts for spring soccer season the first of this month.
- f. They also begin opening fields for both BCSC and P&R at the end of this month.

- g. Staff is working diligently on day to day maintenance items at Hamilton Center which has escalated with the growth of the programming schedule. Carleen has done an outstanding job of keeping the facility busy with the increased scheduling. Great job!
- h. They have been completing several light repairs which were not included in the scope of the renovation project in Hamilton as well. This includes the laying of tile in the concession area which has improved the area tremendously and looks wonderful. A special thanks to Carpet Mania for the donation of most of the materials for that project.
- i. Staff has prepared the Carpenter Building bullpen for the storing of the bridge being installed at the Lincoln people trail. Thanks to grounds for helping with the removal of the heavy concrete playground base. It was a huge help!
- j. All staff attended the Midwest Turf Expo in January in which they gained the necessary CCH's in order to maintain their certifications.
- k. The staff has been great in working through the transition of roles and responsibilities in Athletics. Thanks to them for being patient!

Hamilton Center:

- a. January was a great month! We continued with the extra sessions from 1-3:00 p.m. on the final Christmas break week. We also had our "princess tea skates" and had a wonderful turnout! These teas continue to be a big hit!
 - b. During January, we had 10 birthday parties with approximately 250 children in attendance. Our private rentals exceeded expectations with rentals from 4 schools and 1 church group with over 375 participants. We also hosted 6 pre-schools with over 100 participants.
 - c. Members from the U.S. Army held an on-ice PT session with 36 military men and women participating in broomball on January 30th.
 - d. On January 3rd, the Broomball Association hosted their own Holiday Broomball Tourney, with over 155 participants from the region.
 - e. Lincoln Center FSC hosted their annual Columbus Invitational competition on January 18th. This competition is for basic skills level skaters only, so it is a great opportunity to show off our rink to all the new competitive skaters in the area. Approximately 90 skaters from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky participated in this all-day event. There were approximately 350 spectators for the event. The competition was followed by a Test Session on January 19th with 50 participants. All of our girls did a great job in both events!
 - f. We hosted the Icemen Senior Night Game on January 24th with over 250 spectators at the rink for all of the festivities.
 - g. On January 31st, we hosted an IU D3 vs Michigan Hockey Game. We had approximately 300 attendees with the squirt House League playing between periods.
 - h. Our current session of group classes is in full swing, with approximately 175 skaters!!! We are in the middle of the ice show costume sign up. So far, we have approximately 99 skaters from group classes registered for this year's show in April.
 - i. We are now offering a class called Therapeutic Skating which is a result of a Senior Project. This class is for those that are challenged physically or mentally. It will run for the next few sessions.
4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
- a. The Park Operations Ground Crew has been busy with their winter clean-up. They cut back perennials and grasses, as well as pruned trees throughout the Parks and facilities.
 - b. FFY Crews have covered duties as needed since a full-time employee retired in mid-January. Staff members started work on projects that were encumbered in 2014 and have also been working on a Management Plan for 2015.
 - c. Park Operations Maintenance Staff assisted with the removal and replacement of the gym mat in the Columbus Gymnastics Center. They repaired picnic tables and worked on playground equipment in preparation of the spring season.
 - d. Donner Staff assisted with the clean-up after a replacement window project. They set-up for 15 rentals and performed daily maintenance throughout the building. Keeping sidewalks salted and the salt cleaned up off of the floors of Donner Center has been a challenge over the past few weeks.

- e. The Cleaning Crew picked up trash throughout the Parks and facilities. They focused on ground trash in the Parks, trash along and near the 46 People Trail and large amounts of trash left near barrels. They have finished their inventory of supplies and are ready for the spring season.
 - f. The Staff at The Commons assisted with 27 Conference Room meetings and 11 events in the Performance Hall during the last few weeks. The Playground has been busy as two field trips visited the Playground during the cold weather, with approximately 75 children enjoying the facility. Staff have painted the 4th Street corridor, and have patched holes in the hallway and vestibule walls.
5. Jim Lemke reported for Aquatics:
- a. He is working on the 2015 Pool Schedule and rental requests are already coming in.
 - b. Registration has started for the second session of lifeguard classes.
 - c. Columbus Parks will have a Trailblazers Running team again. The team will be practicing at Donner.
 - d. He has started ordering equipment and rescue gear for the 2015 season.
 - e. First Aid and CPR classes for staff have been scheduled for February.
6. Shanda Sasse reported for The Commons:
- a. January events included:
 - 32 Non-Profit Meetings in our two conference rooms.
 - 13 Rental Events (5 Private / 5 Free / 3 Ticketed)
 - Estimated Guest Count for Rental Events: 2,260 Guests
 - No Vandalism acts reported for January 2015.
 - b. Highlights....

Fri, 1/2	First Fridays for Families (FREE)
Sat, 1/3	Private Reception
Thur, 1/8	Cabaret @ The Commons (Ticketed)
Sat, 1/10	Private Reception
Thur, 1/15	Private Luncheon
Mon, 1/19	Coretta Scott King & the Fight for Freedom (FREE)
Fri, 1/23	IVY Tech comedy night fundraiser (Ticketed)
Sat, 1/24	CIP presents the Wright Brothers in concert (Ticketed)
Sun, 1/25	Private Reception
Fri, 1/30	The Commons presents the IU Latin Jazz Ensemble (FREE)
Sat, 1/31	Private Reception
 - c. Looking Ahead to February....

So far...	February 2015 is trending busier than February 2014.
Wed, 2/4	Private Reception
Fri, 2/6	Private Meeting
Fri, 2/6	First Fridays for Families -Pirate School! (FREE)
Sat, 2/7	Polar Plunge & After Splash Bash - Fundraiser for Special Olympics Indiana (Ticketed)
Sat, 2/14	Dance Indiana Valentine's Dance (Ticketed)
Sun, 2/15	City Band Concert (FREE)
Mon, 2/16	Private Expo
Tues, 2/17	Private Awards Gala
Thur, 2/19	Cabaret @ The Commons. (Ticketed)
Fri, 2/20	Langston Hughes Project – Ask Your Mama – 12 Moods for Jazz Concert (Ticketed)
Sat, 2/21	The Real Group A cappella Concert (Ticketed)
Tues, 2/24	Chaotic Tuesdays (FREE)
Sat, 2/28	D'Vine Beer & Wine Fest (Ticketed)

7. April Williams' reported for Project, Resource Development:

a. *Current projects:*

- Hamilton Center
 - Confirmed date for the Hamilton Center Open House Celebration as Thursday, May 7th. Planning program. Overseeing production of custom benches for Hashman terrace. Coordinating planning of exterior concrete install in the spring. Met with construction committee to confirm receipts, expenditures and remaining balances.
- People Trails
 - Coordination of engineering and design for Clifty Park extension and Haw Creek trail.
 - Submitted a grant to the Indiana Dept. of Health to pursue a county bike and ped plan that will be formulated in coordination with the County and surrounding municipalities to connect to the City's people trail network.
- Other Projects
 - Meeting with planning committee for Bike Share Project
 - Planning for Park Foundation Annual Community Meeting
 - Meeting with Park Foundation Long Term Planning Team
 - Finalized Park Foundation Newsletter
 - Meeting with Colorflow Planning Committee
 - Meeting with planning committees for Tour de Trails events
 - Meeting with downtown restaurants to plan a Polar Winter Brewfest, with proceeds benefiting the Park Foundation
 - Meeting with Park Foundation constituents

b. *Events:*

- **Wednesday, February 18, 2015** from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm: **PF Annual Community Meeting**
- **Thursday, February 19th:** A kick-off to the **First Pints for Parks @ Joe Willy's** every 3rd Thursday of the month. Purchase a pint of your favored beverage and \$1 goes to support the Park Foundation.
- **Thursday, March 12th:** **Save the Date for the First Downtown Columbus Polar Brewfest...** All downtown restaurants will be participating in the Polar Brewfest and Scavenger Hunt. Participants will pay one fee to travel to each downtown bar and enjoy their favorite craft beer, while looking for the clue to their next location and final destination. A little competition will add a fun spin to the event. More details coming soon...
- **Saturday, April 11th from 9 am – 9:30 pm:** **Columbus Ninja Warrior on 4th Street** consists of a 10 obstacle course challenge ranging from fairly easy to moderately difficult. 300 contestants are timed as they maneuver through the course. The top 5 contestants (20 in all) in the defined groups will compete to find out who is "The Columbus Ninja Warrior". This event, combined with the downtown atmosphere on a Saturday night, will bring a large crowd cheering for their favorite warrior. We are still looking for sponsors... (see attached).
- **Saturday, April 18th beginning at 8:00 am:** **Tour de Trails 8K Run, 5K Run & Walk and Kid's Run Run** located at LHP Software on Central Avenue.
- **Saturday, May 30th beginning at 9:30 am:** **Tour de Trails 20, 50 & 75K Bicycle Challenge starting at Mill Race Park and traveling through our People Trail Network.** Lunch and live entertainment at the Park!
- **Saturday, June 27th 5:00 – 9:00 pm:** **Colorflow ~ Yoga in the Park** at Mill Race Park. A full evening that includes a wide variety of yoga classes for individuals of all ages and genders. Live entertainment and educational workshops make this a great opportunity to learn everything you ever wanted to know about the art of yoga.

Thank you for your service!

April Williams

- c: Mayor Kristen Brown
Councilman Dascal Bunch
Jeff Logston
Parks and Recreation FT Employees